IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising~~

A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client;

request transferring means for creating first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving means and at least one of said location information and said server information, and for transferring said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server;

request responding means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response

based at least on server information corresponding to the first and second domain name

system servers and for sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to

the second domain name system server to said client; and

means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure

counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system

server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claims 17 and 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 3, further comprising:~~

A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected

network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding plural domain name system

servers to which an inquiry can be made;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client;

a sixth step of creating first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the

domain name inquiry request received in said fifth step and at least one of said location

information and said server information, and of transferring said first and second domain

name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server;

an eighth step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system servers and of sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client; and

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claims 20 and 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 5, further comprising~~

A computer-readable recording medium having program instructions which, when executed by a processor to perform a domain name system inquiry, results in performance of the steps comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client;

a sixth step of creating first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry request received in said fifth step and at least one of said location information and said server information, and of transferring said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server;

an eighth step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system servers and sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client; and

program instructions resulting in the step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claims 23 and 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising~~
A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

request receiving mechanism configured to receive a domain name inquiry request from a client;

request transferring mechanism configured to create first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving mechanism and at least one of said location information and said server information, and to transfer said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server;

request responding mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based at least on server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system servers and to send the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client; and

a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:~~

A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding plural

domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server

information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client,

said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name

server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry request to first

and second domain name system servers based on said server information;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the

first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second

domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an

IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an

indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different

than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

request responding means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response

based at least on the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name

servers and for sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the

second domain name system server to said client;

current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the

apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said

current location information receiving means; and

means for transferring the domain name inquiry based on the location information.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising~~

A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry request to first and second domain name system servers based on said server information;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

request responding means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and for sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client; and

means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure

counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system

server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 10, further comprising:~~

A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which

an inquiry can be made;

storing the received server information;

receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry

request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain

name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request to first and second domain

name system servers based on said server information;

receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and

a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and

second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i)

an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address

corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different

than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on the server

information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and sending the

second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system

server to said client;

receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

storing the received location information; and

transferring the received domain name inquiry request based on the location

information.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 10, further comprising:~~

A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which

an inquiry can be made;

storing the received server information;

receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry

request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain

name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request to first and second domain

name system servers based on said server information;

receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and

a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and

second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i)

an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address

corresponding to the host name is unknown,

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wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different

than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on the server

information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and sending the

second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system

server to said client; and

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter

included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server

exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): ~~The computer-readable recording medium of claim~~

~~12, further comprising program instructions resulting in the steps of:~~

A computer-readable recording medium having a program instructions which, when

executed by a processor to perform a domain name system inquiry, results in performance of

the steps comprising:

receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which

an inquiry can be made;

storing the received server information;

receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry

request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain

name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request to first and second domain

name system servers based on said server information;

receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based at least on the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and sending the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client;

receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

storing the received location information; and

transferring the received domain name inquiry request based on the location information.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising program instructions resulting in the step of~~

A computer-readable recording medium having a program instructions which, when executed by a processor to perform a domain name system inquiry, results in performance of the steps comprising:

receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

storing the received server information;

receiving a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request to first and second domain name system servers based on said server information;

receiving a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response; and

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:~~

A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

a server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

a server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

a request receiving mechanism configured to receive a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

a request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry request to first and second domain name system servers based on said server information;

a response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

a request responding mechanism configured to select the second domain name system server based at least on the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and to send the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client;

a current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

a current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism; and

a transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry based on the location information.

Claim 40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising~~

A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

a server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made;

a server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

a request receiving mechanism configured to receive a domain name inquiry request from a client, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

a request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry request to first and second domain name system servers based on said server information;

a response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response from the second domain name server, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response;

a request responding mechanism configured to select the second domain name system server based at least on the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and to send the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the second domain name system server to said client; and

a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 42 (Canceled).